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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*****

***STATEMENT FROM NEW YORK COUNTY DEFENDER
SERVICES ON LATEST DEATH AT RIKERS***

(NEW YORK, NY) –Taylor Garzone, Forensic Social Worker at New York County Defender Services, issued the following statement about the death of her former client on Rikers on Sunday:

“New York County Defender Services is deeply saddened to hear about the death of Tarz Youngblood this weekend. Mr. Youngblood was a father who struggled with homelessness and his death is a tragedy. In our prior representation of him, we found him to be a kind and well-intentioned man. Yet while on Rikers, he was unable to receive necessary medical treatment in a timely manner due to logistical ineptness, resulting in extreme pain and suffering. Mr. Youngblood's death is a devastating reminder that Rikers Island is a humanitarian disaster. The conditions there are unconscionable. The only path forward to end the death and misery on Rikers is federal receivership.”

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